

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-06-13

Issued at: Homer, Thursday, April 18, 2013

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Thursday,
October, 31, 2013, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the bag and possession limit for king salmon in the Ninilchik River drainage to one king salmon 20 inches or greater in length. During the 3-day weekend fishing periods that begin on Memorial Day weekend, anglers may retain either a hatchery king salmon or a naturally-produced (wild) king salmon. Beginning in July, anglers may only retain hatchery king salmon. This emergency order is effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, October, 31, 2013.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122 Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. (a)(6)(D)(i) and (ii) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, October, 31, 2013:

5 AAC 56.122 Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

(a)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:

(D) open to sport fishing for king salmon from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream

(i) on Memorial Day weekend and the following two weekends and the Monday following each of those weekends; bag and possession limit of one king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length;

(ii) from July 1 - October 31; bag and possession limit of one hatchery king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length; naturally-produced king salmon may not be retained; and

Cora Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Carol Kerkvliet
Fisheries Biologist II

JUSTIFICATION:

The Ninilchik River SEG is 550–1,300 wild king salmon and the egg-take goal for hatchery-produced king salmon in 2013 is 111 pairs. The 2013 outlook for the Ninilchik River is below the historical

average and expected to be similar to the 2007–2012 king salmon runs. King salmon escapement was below the SEG in 2007 and 2009, but was met in 2008, and 2010–2012. In 2007–2009 and 2012, egg-take goals were not achieved despite extending weir operations. In 2010, egg-takes were not needed for stocking, but if they were, the number of king salmon was insufficient to meet egg-take goals. Inriver sport fishing restrictions occurred each year from 2010–2012, and sport fishing restrictions occurred in the nearby marine sport fishery in 2012. The recent poor king salmon runs in Lower Cook Inlet streams and uncertainty over how quickly the run may rebound justify starting the 2013 season with restrictions in order to achieve the escapement and egg-take goals and provide fishing opportunity throughout the season.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-03-13 closes waters of the Anchor River drainage from its mouth upstream to the junction of the North and South forks to sport fishing each Wednesday and decreases the waters of the Anchor River drainage open to sport fishing by relocating the ADF&G regulatory marker downstream approximately 1,000 feet below the junction of the North and South forks. This emergency order remains in effect from 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, June 30, 2013.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-04-13 establishes a combined annual limit of two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length for fish harvested in the Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River and all marine waters south of the latitude of the mouth of the Ninilchik River (60° 03.99' N. lat.) to the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.). In addition a person who takes and retains a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length from Deep Creek, Anchor River, or Ninilchik River may not sport fish in any of those drainages for the rest of the day. This emergency order remains in effect from 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2013 through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, June 30, 2013.

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-05-13 limits sport fishing gear to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure when fishing in the Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River drainages. This emergency order remains in effect from 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, June 30, 2013, 2013.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.